

## Ground Operations (FINAL)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # \_\_\_\_\_

APP # 700521

### 1. Project Description

#### A. Statement of GO Activity

Ground operations identified in this project will consist of the following projects:

**Trail Maintenance** -- this project will provide staff and materials necessary to maintain 39 miles of 24-50" ATV/motorcycle trail. The majority of annual tread maintenance is completed using a SWECO 480 trail tractor and or Kubota tractor, the remaining are done by hand. These activities are conducted only when soil moisture is adequate and in accordance with the 2008 Soil Conservation Standards and Guidelines and the technical paper, "A Field Evaluation of the Use of Small Trail Tractors to Maintain and Construct OHV Trails on National Forests in California." This project also includes funding for purchase of 2 replacement motorcycles. These motorcycles will be used to facilitate management of the OHV program on the forest.

**Facilities O&M** -- this project will provide staff and materials necessary to maintain and repair OHV facilities across the forest, including two year-round staging areas, eight parking/trailering sites and three year-round, full-service developed campgrounds with direct access to the OHV system. Activities will include cleaning, trash removal, painting, repair and general upkeep of all OHV related facilities including buildings, toilets, picnic tables, signs, etc. This project also provides staff and materials necessary to operate four OHV work centers, which house ATVs, tools and equipment used by the 300+ member San Bernardino National Forest Association (SBNFA) OHV Volunteer patrols and 38 active Adopt-a-Trail groups.

**WHPP/HMP implementation** -- This project provides staff necessary to update the annual WHPP/HMP and to conduct routine monitoring of HMP sites across the forest.

**Soil Conservation** -- This project provides the staff and materials necessary to implement the forest's soil conservation plan. Soil condition ratings will be established on each OHV trail annually, using the new Red, Yellow, Green format found in the 2008 regulations. In addition to this, staff also conducts additional monitoring using a soil erosion bridge measurement system to observe, over time, soil movement within the trail tread. This data is used to detect change and to identify potential causes of soil loss within the trail tread. The forest also uses soil monitoring pins to identify sediment loading adjacent to routes. The data collected is then used immediately in the field, during routine maintenance, to determine what corrective action, if any, should be taken to reduce soil movement from or adjacent to the trail.

**Archaeology Field School** -- This project provides staff and materials necessary to conduct an Archaeological Field School, which will inventory heritage resources located on the forest. The field school will support current OHV program management efforts by identifying heritage sites. Once these sites have been identified, future work will be streamlined, as archaeological review will have been completed.

**Archaeology Site Steward Program** -- This project will provide staff and materials necessary to continue the Volunteer Heritage Site Stewardship program. This program organizes, trains and monitors a team of volunteers who routinely monitor known archaeological sites for damage created by illegal OHV use.

**MVUM Implementation** -- This project will also provide funding for purchases of informational bulletin boards, signs and decals, gates and other barricade materials to implement the approved MVUM for the forest. The Travel Management environmental document has been signed and a final decision has been made. These supplies are necessary to implement the decision on the ground, by placing designated vehicle route signs and restriction signs. Maps that show approved designated routes are currently available and over 20,000 have been given out.

**T6 Crossing** -- This project will provide funding for purchase of pipe fence to be installed at the T6 crossing. Staff time and equipment will be used to rebuild the section of 3N34 (west of Deep Creek) to a Most Difficult condition which should reduce impacts to the archaeological site located on the east side of Deep Creek

Over Snow Program -- This project will provide funding for the purchase of snow conversion kits for ATVs. The forest has been experiencing increased over snow use and this purchase will allow the forest to begin to learn about the use that is currently occurring, to then begin to develop ways to manage the use.

#### **B. Relation of Proposed Project to OHV Recreation**

Ground operations of the forest's OHV program can be divided into three categories: trail maintenance, facilities, and resource monitoring and protection. Each of these three phases are critical to sustaining OHV operations, as follows.

Trail Maintenance -- Hosting over 200,000 visitors per year, the OHV road and trail system on the Forest is heavily impacted. The majority of this use, by motorcycles and ATVs, is concentrated on the 24" and 50" trail systems, as these routes provide the experience and level of challenge that most users are seeking. The impacts to these trails are considerable, and they must be maintained annually to prevent unacceptable impacts to Forest resources. While the contributions of volunteers to this effort are invaluable, it is also necessary to conduct mechanized maintenance on a regular basis, by trained and skilled professionals, to reestablish trail structures and prevent erosion, runoff and soil loss. This level of maintenance is also necessary to periodically restore trails to their intended level of difficulty. By maintaining all trails to their intended standard, users are encouraged to remain on designated routes since they are exposed to the trail experience and level of difficulty they anticipate. Public health and safety is also protected as novice users seeking an 'easy' experience are likely to find a well-groomed, obstacle-free trail when they choose an 'Easiest' route.

Facilities -- This phase of the ground operations program must be fully implemented to meet the objectives of the program and the ever-increasing needs of the OHV using public. Maintenance and repair of directional and informational signs at trailheads and staging areas is critical to directing users to legal opportunities and away from sensitive or rehabilitated areas. Adequate, well-maintained signage installed at closed areas and restoration sites informs the user why areas are closed and provides information about restoration efforts and how they protect OHV opportunity. Proper administration, maintenance and cleaning of staging areas, restrooms and other facilities also promotes compliance, as users are often inclined to treat facilities as they appear to be treated by others. Public health and safety are also protected by routine maintenance of facilities insuring that all buildings, structures and fixtures are maintained to a safe standard. This project also supports four OHV work centers located across the forest. These facilities serve as storage and maintenance facilities, as well as meeting space for Forest staff and Volunteers. OHVs and motorcycles, many of which were purchased with OHV Trust funds, are securely stored in these facilities along with trail tools, safety equipment, restoration/conservation supplies and first aid equipment. These facilities are routinely used by Adopt-a-Trail groups and SBNFA OHV Volunteers, who contribute over 20,000 hours to the forest annually in support of the OHV program.

Resources -- Resource monitoring activities are a critical component of the Forest's OHV operations and maintenance program. Forest staff, with assistance from OHV Volunteers and Adopt-a-Trail participants, regularly monitors all of the roads and trails designated for OHV use on the Forest. This is a very time consuming and expensive task, as OHV use is spread across the majority of the Forest. Resource monitoring programs have been in place on the Forest for decades, and have proven to be very effective in early detection of resource impacts to allow mitigation before major restoration activities are required. Continued implementation of the Forest's extensive monitoring/resource management program is critical to the ongoing success of the OHV program. Routine soil monitoring allows soil loss to be identified early, before trails reach a 'red' condition, and are forced closed. This also protects habitat, as soil is prevented from moving out of trail corridors and into streams, where sedimentation could impact habitat and water quality. WHPP/HMP monitoring conducted quarterly allows staff and volunteers to identify and mitigate minor impacts before they have a chance to become established. This helps prevent 'take' of TES species in areas where they are known to exist, and allows the Forest to effectively manage for designated routes only, as illegal trails are quickly discovered and mitigated before having a chance to appear permanent. Expanded heritage site monitoring through continuation of the volunteer program will reduce impacts to known cultural resources and prevent area closures (temporary or permanent) necessary to mitigate heritage resources when they are compromised.

#### **C. Describe the size of the specific Project Area(s) in acres and/or miles**

This project will provide for the maintenance and upkeep of the following:

39 miles of 24-50" designated OHV trail, to be conducted by forest OHV staff

169 miles of designated OHV routes, through partnership with 38 Adopt-a-Trail groups

#### Two Designated Staging Areas

The Forest operates two designated staging areas, Cactus Flats and Pinnacles, which are generally open year round. Both are full-service facilities offering restrooms, loading ramps, picnic tables and informational kiosks.

#### Three Campgrounds

The San Bernardino National Forest operates three 'OHV friendly' campgrounds which are directly accessible from the designated OHV route system; Horse Springs Campground, Big Pine Flats Campground, and Crab Flats Campground. Each is a developed campground offering restrooms and other amenities. Direct OHV access to and from campsites is allowed in each of the three campgrounds.

#### Four OHV Work Centers

The Forest maintains four 'work center' facilities to support the OHV program. The North Shore Work Center (constructed in 2003 using OHV trust funds), Big Bear Volunteer Garage, Lytle Creek OHV Outpost and Cranston OHV Outpost all serve as storage and maintenance facilities, as well as meeting space for Forest staff and Volunteers.

The project also provides for the monitoring and protection of 191 special status species across 51 WHPP/HMP monitoring sites.

The project will also provide for the identification and recordation of an unknown number of potential archaeological sites on the Mountain Top District. The project will also provide for the protection, through volunteer stewardship, of several hundred previously known archaeological sites across the forest.

### **D. Location and description of OHV opportunities**

The San Bernardino National Forest offers a designated OHV road and trail system, with no open areas on the Forest. The forest offers 39 miles of 24-50" trails with an additional 169 miles of forest roads available for green sticker/red sticker use. In addition there are 734 miles of level 2 roads open to SUV/4WD use - 104 miles of which are 4WD routes. The system offers ample opportunity for enthusiasts of all experience levels including novice, intermediate, and expert. Trails are rated by difficulty, and are signed easiest, more difficult, or most difficult. Due to the mild climate, OHV riding opportunities are year round. A wide variety of vehicle types including dual sport motorcycles, dirt bikes (red & green sticker), ATVs, and 4WD/SUVs use the 4WD and green sticker/red sticker designated route system. The forest provides OHV opportunity on each of its three Districts.

The Forest also offers two year-round staging areas, eight parking/trailering sites, and three year-round, full-service developed campgrounds with direct access to the OHV system. Four OHV work centers assist in fielding the 300+ member San Bernardino National Forest Association (SBNFA) OHV Volunteer patrols and nearly 40 active Adopt-a-Trail groups. Please see attached facilities map for detailed information regarding OHV trails and facilities. More detailed maps are available at the Forest Supervisor's Office.

## **2. Rerouting Requirements**

### **Rerouting**

- (a) Does your project involve rerouting of any roads and trails? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If response to question (a) is 'Yes', a Project timeline, conceptual drawings and site plans are required (See 'Attachments' tab at the top of the screen)

If response to question (a) is 'No', skip details related to rerouting

## Additional Documentation

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # \_\_\_\_\_

APP # 700521

1. **Project Timeline (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**
2. **Conceptual Drawings and Site Plans (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**

3 **Project-Specific Maps**

Attachments:

[Facility Map Index](#)

[Trail Maintenance Map Index](#)

4. **Optional Project-Specific Application Documents**

## Project Cost Estimate

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____
<b>APPLICANT NAME :</b>	USFS - San Bernardino National Forest		
<b>PROJECT TITLE :</b>	Ground Operations (FINAL)	<b>PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :</b>	G09-02-14-G01
<b>PROJECT TYPE :</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION :</b>	<p>Ground operations identified in this project will consist of the following projects:</p> <p>Trail Maintenance -- this project will provide staff and materials necessary to maintain 39 miles of 24-50" ATV/motorcycle trail. The majority of annual tread maintenance is completed using a SWECO 480 trail tractor and or Kubota tractor, the remaining are done by hand. These activities are conducted only when soil moisture is adequate and in accordance with the 2008 Soil Conservation Standards and Guidelines and the technical paper, "A Field Evaluation of the Use of Small Trail Tractors to Maintain and Construct OHV Trails on National Forests in California." This project also includes funding for purchase of 2 replacement motorcycles. These motorcycles will be used to facilitate management of the OHV program on the forest.</p> <p>Facilities O&amp;M -- this project will provide staff and materials necessary to maintain and repair OHV facilities across the forest, including two year-round staging areas, eight parking/trailering sites and three year-round, full-service developed campgrounds with direct access to the OHV system. Activities will include cleaning, trash removal, painting, repair and general upkeep of all OHV related facilities including buildings, toilets, picnic tables, signs, etc. This project also provides staff and materials necessary to operate four OHV work centers , which house ATVs, tools and equipment used by the 300+ member San Bernardino National Forest Association (SBNFA) OHV Volunteer patrols and 38 active Adopt-a-Trail groups.</p> <p>WHPP/HMP implementation -- This project provides staff necessary to update the annual WHPP/HMP and to conduct routine monitoring of HMP sites across the forest.</p> <p>Soil Conservation -- This project provides the staff and materials necessary to implement the forest's soil conservation plan. Soil condition ratings will be established on each OHV trail annually, using the new Red, Yellow, Green format found in the 2008 regulations. In addition to this, staff also conducts additional monitoring using a soil erosion bridge measurement system to observe, over time, soil movement within the trail tread. This data is used to detect change and to identify potential causes of soil loss within the trail tread. The forest also uses soil monitoring pins to identify sediment loading adjacent to routes. The data collected is then used immediately in the field, during routine maintenance, to determine what corrective action, if any, should be taken to reduce soil movement from or adjacent to the trail.</p> <p>Archaeology Field School -- This project provides staff and materials necessary to conduct an Archaeological Field School, which will inventory heritage resources located on the forest. The field school will support current OHV program management efforts by identifying heritage sites. Once these sites have been identified, future work will be streamlined, as archaeological review will have been completed.</p> <p>Archaeology Site Steward Program -- This project will provide staff and materials necessary to continue the Volunteer Heritage Site Stewardship program. This program organizes, trains and monitors a team of volunteers who routinely monitor known archaeological sites for damage created by illegal OHV use.</p> <p>MVUM Implmentation -- This project will also provide funding for purchases of informational bulletin boards, signs and decals, gates and other barricade</p>		

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010  
Agency: USFS - San Bernardino National Forest  
Application: Ground Operations (FINAL)

3/1/2010

	<p>materials to implement the approved MVUM for the forest. The Travel Management environmental document has been signed and a final decision has been made. These supplies are necessary to implement the decision on the ground, by placing designated vehicle route signs and restriction signs. Maps that show approved designated routes are currently available and over 20,000 have been given out .</p> <p>T6 Crossing -- This project will provide funding for purchase of pipe fence to be installed at the T6 crossing. Staff time and equipment will be used to rebuild the section of 3N34 (west of Deep Creek) to a Most Difficult condition which should reduce impacts to the archaeological site located on the east side of Deep Creek</p> <p>Over Snow Program -- This project will provide funding for the purchase of snow conversion kits for ATVs. The forest has been experiencing increased over snow use and this purchase will allow the forest to begin to learn about the use that is currently occurring, to then begin to develop ways to manage the use.</p>
--	--

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
<b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>							
<b>Program Expenses</b>							
<b>1</b>	<b>Staff</b>						
	Other-Adopt-a-Trail Volunteers	8500.000	20.570	HRS	0.00	174,845.00	174,845.00
	Other-OHV Program Manager Notes : Hoffman - OHV Program Manager	190.000	293.000	DAY	55,670.00	0.00	55,670.00
	Other-OHV Tech Notes : Mason - OHV Technician	200.000	194.000	DAY	38,800.00	0.00	38,800.00
	Other-District OHV Tech Notes : Pratt, Sidener, vice Wellman -- District OHV Techs	240.000	185.000	DAY	44,400.00	0.00	44,400.00
	Other-Resources - Patrol Notes : Branda/Hartenstein - WHPP Monitor	90.000	186.000	DAY	16,740.00	0.00	16,740.00
	Other-GIS - WHPP/HMP	2.000	332.000	DAY	664.00	0.00	664.00
	Other-Cons Project Lead Notes : Kopp	3.000	408.000	DAY	1,224.00	0.00	1,224.00
	Other-Botany / Plants Notes : Myers / Wyatt	50.000	240.000	DAY	12,000.00	0.00	12,000.00
	Other-District Biologist Notes : L Stamer	45.000	356.000	DAY	16,020.00	0.00	16,020.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010  
Agency: USFS - San Bernardino National Forest  
Application: Ground Operations (FINAL)

3/1/2010

Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
Other-Archaeologist - Site Steward Progr Notes : Bryant, Doan, Griffith, McCarthy, McKay	115.000	280.000	DAY	32,200.00	0.00	32,200.00
Other-OHV Technician - Site Steward Notes : Mason - OHV Tech/Para-arco	50.000	194.000	DAY	9,700.00	0.00	9,700.00
Other-Heritage Program Leader Notes : Sapp - Field School	30.000	433.000	DAY	12,990.00	0.00	12,990.00
Other-Archaeologist - Field School	65.000	313.320	DAY	20,366.00	0.00	20,366.00
Other-Heritage Program Leader - Field Sc	25.000	433.000	DAY	10,825.00	0.00	10,825.00
Other-Botanist/Biologist - Field School Notes : Kramer, Poopatanapong	2.000	384.620	DAY	769.00	0.00	769.00
Other-Volunteer Site Stewards	6000.000	20.570	HRS	0.00	123,420.00	123,420.00
Other-Volunteer Labor - Field School	2000.000	20.570	HRS	0.00	41,140.00	41,140.00
Other-Volunteer Labor - Big Bear Green T	1000.000	20.570	HRS	0.00	20,570.00	20,570.00
Other-Volunteer Labor - OHV Vols	8200.000	20.570	HRS	0.00	168,674.00	168,674.00
Other-District Archaeologist Notes : McKay - for work on T6 crossing	5.000	389.730	DAY	1,949.00	0.00	1,949.00
Other-Archaeologist Tech Notes : GS-7 Arch for T6 crossing	30.000	237.690	DAY	7,131.00	0.00	7,131.00
Other-District Archaeologist Notes : Markel, arch support for T6 crossing	5.000	272.280	DAY	1,361.00	0.00	1,361.00
Other-District Wildlife Biologist Notes : Eliason, biologist support for T6 crossing	3.000	392.960	DAY	1,179.00	0.00	1,179.00
Other-Biologist Tech Notes : GS-5 Bio Tech for wildlife monitoring for T6 crossing	7.000	165.000	DAY	1,155.00	0.00	1,155.00
<b>Total for Staff</b>				285,143.00	528,649.00	813,792.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010  
Agency: USFS - San Bernardino National Forest  
Application: Ground Operations (FINAL)

3/1/2010

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
<b>2</b>	<b>Contracts</b>						
	Other-Cal State University San Bernardin Notes : Donation from Cal State University, San Bernardino, Archaeology Field School - to include operating expenses, kitchen, catering, equipment rental, contracted scientific analysis, etc.	1.000	25000.000	PKG	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00
	Other-Enterprise Team Notes : The enterprise team provides OHV grant program management	15.000	800.000	DAY	12,000.00	0.00	12,000.00
	<b>Total for Contracts</b>				12,000.00	25,000.00	37,000.00
<b>3</b>	<b>Materials / Supplies</b>						
	Other-Chainsaw, augers, welder, hand too	1.000	1500.000	YR	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
	Other-Signs supplies	1.000	2500.000	YR	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00
	Other-Arch Site Steward Supplies	1.000	3000.000	YR	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
	Other-Arc Field School Supplies	1.000	2500.000	YR	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00
	Other-Signs, gates, barricade material Notes : This purchase is to assist the forest in implementation of their approved travel management MVUM.	1.000	20000.000	PKG	20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00
	Fencing Supplies Notes : Purchase of pipe fence to be installed at T6 crossing site.	1.000	15000.000	EA	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00
	Other-OHV Trailer & Facility Maint	1.000	3500.000	YR	3,500.00	0.00	3,500.00
	Other-MC/ATV Fleet Maint	1.000	5000.000	YR	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
	<b>Total for Materials / Supplies</b>				53,000.00	0.00	53,000.00
<b>4</b>	<b>Equipment Use Expenses</b>						
	Other-4x4 - WHPP Monitoring	12.000	260.000	MOS	0.00	3,120.00	3,120.00
	Other-4x4 - Soil Monitoring	4.000	316.000	MOS	0.00	1,264.00	1,264.00



Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010  
Agency: USFS - San Bernardino National Forest  
Application: Ground Operations (FINAL)

3/1/2010

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Other-4x4 - Heritage	6.000	272.000	MOS	0.00	1,632.00	1,632.00
	Other-SWECO Trail Dozer	200.000	18.870	HRS	0.00	3,774.00	3,774.00
	Other-Dumpbed	4.000	336.000	MOS	0.00	1,344.00	1,344.00
	Other-4x4 - Trails/facilities	8.000	316.000	MOS	0.00	2,528.00	2,528.00
	Other-Sporty Utility Field School Mileag	300.000	0.370	MI	0.00	111.00	111.00
	<b>Total for Equipment Use Expenses</b>				0.00	13,773.00	13,773.00
<b>5</b>	<b>Equipment Purchases</b>						
	Other-Motorcycles	2.000	5500.000	EA	11,000.00	0.00	11,000.00
	Other-Conversion kits for ATVs Notes : Kits to convert ATVs to over-snow vehicles to begin managing the over-snow program. Conversion kits are cheaper than purchasing snowmobiles, and allows equipment to be used year round.	2.000	7500.000	EA	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00
	<b>Total for Equipment Purchases</b>				26,000.00	0.00	26,000.00
<b>6</b>	<b>Others</b>						
<b>7</b>	<b>Indirect Costs</b>						
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>					376,143.00	567,422.00	943,565.00
<b>TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES</b>					376,143.00	567,422.00	943,565.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>					<b>376,143.00</b>	<b>567,422.00</b>	<b>943,565.00</b>

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010  
 Agency: USFS - San Bernardino National Forest  
 Application: Ground Operations (FINAL)

3/1/2010

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
<b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>					
<b>Program Expenses</b>					
1	Staff	285,143.00	528,649.00	813,792.00	
2	Contracts	12,000.00	25,000.00	37,000.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	53,000.00	0.00	53,000.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	13,773.00	13,773.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	26,000.00	0.00	26,000.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Indirect Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>		376,143.00	567,422.00	943,565.00	
<b>TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES</b>		376,143.00	567,422.00	943,565.00	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>376,143.00</b>	<b>567,422.00</b>	<b>943,565.00</b>	

## Environmental Review Data Sheet (ERDS)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # \_\_\_\_\_

APP # 700521

### ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

#### ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No  
(Please select Yes or No)

#### ITEM 2

- b. Does the proposed Project include a request for funding for CEQA and/or NEPA document preparation prior to implementing the remaining Project Deliverables (i.e., is it a two-phased Project pursuant to Section 4970.06.1(b)) (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

### ITEM 3 - Project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378

- c. ITEM 3 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☒ Yes ☐ No  
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No
- e. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 4 – 10

### ITEM 4 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

On all projects, the forest implements best management practices (BMPs) from `Water Quality Management for Forest System Lands in California, Best Management Practices, including the following:

BMP 2-7, Control of Road Drainage

BMP 2-13, Control of Construction & Maintenance Activities Adjacent to Stream Management Zones

BMP 2-22, Maintenance of Roads

BMP 2-26, Obliteration or Decommissioning of Roads

BMP 2-28, Surface Erosion Control at Facility Sites

BMP 4-7(b4, b5, b6), Water Quality Monitoring of OHV Use According to a Developed Plan

BMP 5-1, Soil Disturbing Treatments (limits of)

BMP 5-4, Revegetation of Surface Disturbed Areas

BMP 5-6, Soil Moisture Limitations for Mechanical Equipment Operations

The Best Management Practices guide can be viewed on the forest's webpage and is also available at the Supervisor's Office, OHV Recreation.

These BMPs, and others, are reviewed and implemented by interdisciplinary staff during NEPA planning and analysis of all OHV related projects. OHV field staff are also trained in these BMPs and implement them during maintenance and conservation efforts where appropriate.

The forest implements a variety of management practices to ensure viability and protection of species. The WHPP/HMP, attached to this application, is implemented and updated annually to monitor impacts and protect all special-status species known to exist within proximity of OHV use. The WHPP/HMP identifies known locations of special-status species, results of quarterly monitoring of these locations and any management practices which may be recommended to improve and/or protect habitat impacted by OHV use. WHPP/HMP monitoring results are available for review at the Supervisor's Office, OHV Recreation. Results of the annual WHPP/HMP are also reviewed during monitoring of the Forest Land Management Plan, per protocol established in the Land Management Plan Monitoring Guide, viewable on the forest's webpage. Limited Operating Periods (LOPs) for bald eagle, spotted owls, southwestern willow flycatcher, and arroyo toads are also followed for maintenance of OHV trails in or adjacent to known habitat. Biologists are consulted when potential conflicts may arise during regular trail maintenance and restoration activities.

Species protection is also accomplished through implementation of the forest OHV Soil Conservation Plan. The Forest's overriding objective for soil conservation is to prevent any unacceptable loss of soil due to impacts from or associated with the use of OHVs; and when such impacts are observed, to return the impacted site to an acceptable condition at the earliest possible opportunity. Use of the 1991 Soil Loss Standards, analysis of baseline soils information, and a proactive soils monitoring program allow the Forest to meet soil conservation objectives in an environmentally responsible manner. Benefit to species and habitat is realized through watershed protection accomplished through implementation of the Soil Conservation Plan. Where unacceptable levels of soil loss may threaten watershed quality, these conditions are identified quickly, through quarterly monitoring, and can be corrected in a timely manner. The forest OHV Soil Conservation Plan is attached to this application. Monitoring results are available for review at the Supervisor's Office, Recreation.

Because of these standard procedures and BMPs, there will be no impact on wetlands or sensitive habitat and species from this project.

#### **ITEM 5 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project**

Refer to included Categorical Exclusion for Off-Highway Vehicle Operations and Maintenance, in NEPA/CEQA section, for discussion of cumulative impacts. The finding is that OHV management activities on the Forest will be of 'limited size, duration, and degree of disturbance'. Trail maintenance activities described within this application are specifically addressed in the Categorical Exclusion and will have no cumulative effects. Conservation and monitoring activities described within this project are also specifically addressed in the Categorical Exclusion and will have no cumulative effects.

#### **ITEM 6 - Soil Impacts**

Refer to the forest Soil Conservation Plan, as part of this application, for relevant discussion regarding the effects that ground operations activities are having and the measures being employed to protect soils on steep slopes. Trail maintenance activities are conducted in accordance with the Forest Service Trail Maintenance handbook (FSH 2309.18), the 2008 Soil Conservation Standards and Guidelines, and also utilize guidelines in the technical paper "A Field Evaluation of the Use of Small Trail Tractors to Maintain and Construct OHV Trails on National Forests in California".

Soil monitoring per the OHV Trail Condition Evaluation Form, as part of the forest ground operations project, is conducted annually to ensure soil conservation objectives are being met. Additional monitoring is conducted quarterly by two additional methods, soil pin measurement and tread profiling, described in detail in the Soil Conservation Plan. The forest's annual trail maintenance plan is developed in part from data obtained through this monitoring to ensure that maintenance activities are being conducted to quickly restore any condition where soil loss may be unacceptable.

The Categorical Exclusion for Off-highway Vehicle Operations and Maintenance, as part of this application, further concludes that, "...there will be no significant effects to the environment and the action being taken is minimal in nature."

#### **ITEM 7 - Damage to Scenic Resources**

The Forest has four designated State Scenic Highways. OHV use is limited to a system of designated roads, trails and facilities, none of which is impacting the view shed of a State Scenic Highway. Activities described specifically within this ground operations project will not alter the designated OHV route system thus having no additional impact to scenic resources.

**ITEM 8 - Hazardous Materials**

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

**ITEM 9 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources**

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Discuss the potential for the proposed Project to have any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources.

Forest Service heritage staff are regularly consulted to assist in avoidance of any historically and culturally sensitive sites.

**ITEM 10 - Indirect Significant Impacts**

This project will cause no indirect significant impacts. This project is for annual maintenance of existing OHV trails. Maintenance on these trails will be of a short duration and limited area. Because of this, there will be minimal chance of 'bumping' use to other areas. In addition, as these are existing sites, there would be no expectation of increased use in the vicinity of the project. Because of the BMPs, SOPs and LOPs that the forest implements for projects, there will be no significant impacts off site.

**CEQA/NEPA Attachment**

Attachments:

[Decision Memo - Trail Maint.](#)

## Evaluation Criteria

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # \_\_\_\_\_

APP # 700521

### 1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the cost of the Project covered by the Applicant is 5

(Note: This field will auto-populate once the Cost Estimate and Evaluation Criteria are Validated.) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 76% or more (10 points)  
☒ 51% - 75% (5 points)  
☐ 26% - 50% (3 points)  
☐ 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

### 2. Failure to Complete - Q 2.

2. Failure to complete the Project would result in: 8

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 8 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Loss of OHV Opportunity (6 points)  
☒ Negative impact to cultural sites (2 points)  
☒ Damage to special-status species or other sensitive habitat (2 points)  
☐ Potential trespass (2 points)  
☐ Additional damage to Facilities (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

Failure to implement this project would result in loss of OHV opportunity as designated trails and OHV facilities would not be properly maintained across the forest. Rolling grade dips and other water diversion structures would fail, causing unacceptable soil loss and damage to habitat through excessive sedimentation. Failure to mitigate these impacts would result in trail closures (temporary or permanent) per Forest Land Management Plan monitoring protocol.

This project also provides substantial monitoring of heritage sites through a volunteer site steward program and monitoring of TES habitat through implementation of the WHPP/HMP. Consistent and frequent monitoring of these resources allows the forest to immediately mitigate minor impacts as they occur, which prevents the cumulative negative effects of repeated impacts to the same location. Failure to accomplish these monitoring activities would allow minor impacts to go untreated, thus permitting continued impacts to natural and cultural resources.

### 3. Sustain OHV Opportunity - Q 3.

3. The Project would sustain OHV Opportunity by 13

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Maintaining trail or road tread (5 points)  
☒ Installing or repairing erosion control features (3 points)  
☒ Providing traffic control and/or educational signage (3 points)  
☒ Maintaining multi use (ATV, Dirt Bikes, 4x4, etc) (1 point)  
☒ Providing varied levels of riding difficulty (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

This project provides the staff and materials necessary to maintain 42 miles of 24-50" ATV/motorcycle trail. These activities include surface blading of the trail tread to maintain cross slope, repair and maintain rolling grade dips, and to remove ruts, rocks and other obstacles as necessary to maintain the trail's desired level of difficulty. Please see the Soil Conservation Plan, as part of this application, for details regarding tread maintenance.

Ground operations also provides staff and materials necessary to maintain OHV related signing across the forest. The forest has recently issued a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) per 36 CFR 212.51. In response to this, OHV staff will review, update, maintain and repair OHV signing across the forest to insure consistency with the MVUM and provide OHV users with a high-quality, consistent experience. Signs are also installed and maintained at restoration sites to educate users about restoration activities and to direct them to legal opportunities.

**4. Public Input - Q 4.**

4. The Project was developed with public input employing the following 2

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Publicly noticed meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)  
☒ Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)  
☒ Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

The forest met with a San Bernardino National Forest OHV Leadership group on March 8, 2010 to discuss the upcoming grant cycle and review the current grant proposals. Comments from these stakeholders were considered during development of final project proposals and cost estimates. A subsequent meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2010.

Forest staff participated in conference calls with members of the San Bernardino National Forest Association to coordinate volunteer activities planned.

Forest talked to specific stakeholders regarding locations and proposed activities during the comment period.

**5. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 5.**

5. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☒ 4 or more (4 points) ☐ 2 to 3 (2 points)  
☐ 1 (1 point) ☐ None (No points)

List partner organization(s):

San Bernardino National Forest Association  
38 Adopt-a-Trail clubs  
Cal State University, San Bernardino  
Big Bear Green Thumbs

**6. Impact to Natural and Cultural Resources - Q 6.**

6. The Project will avoid and/or minimize impact to natural and cultural resources by 6

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 7 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Maintaining physical barriers to control OHV use (1 point)  
☒ Protecting water quality (1 point)  
☒ Providing bridges instead of wet crossings where appropriate (1 point)  
☒ Protecting special-status species (1 point)

- ☐ Re-routing trails to divert away from riparian/wetlands areas (1 point)
- ☒ Providing sanitary facilities (1 point)
- ☒ Protecting cultural site(s) (1 point)
- ☐ Site design precludes the need for the above measures (7 points)

Explain each statement that was checked

Barriers and fences are used across the forest to protect restoration sites and sensitive habitats. This project provides staff and materials necessary to monitor and maintain these barriers. Water quality is protected through routine trail maintenance, which includes the maintenance of rolling grade dips and other water diversion structures to reduce soil loss from trails and prevent sediment from reaching adjacent watersheds. Bridges are maintained at the crossing of Deep Creek, and two additional water crossings are hardened at Hixon and Bautista. Metal culverts are installed at intermittent water crossings to reduce surface runoff. Special status species and cultural resources are protected through routine monitoring as part of this project. Sanitary facilities are present at the forest's two trailheads and three OHV-friendly campgrounds, the maintenance and upkeep of which is included in this project.

## 7. Recycled Materials - Q 7.

7. The Project incorporates recycled materials by utilizing 4

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Barrier materials which include recycled content or materials obtained onsite (1 point)
- ☒ Signs, sign posts or education kiosks which use products with recycled content (1 point)
- ☒ Erosion control features which use materials with recycled content (1 point)
- ☒ Paper used for trail maps which includes recycled content (1 point)
- ☐ Other products with recycled content (Specify) (1 point)

## 8. Sustainable Technologies - Q 8.

8. The Project makes substantial use of sustainable technologies such as 4

- Alternative fuel vehicles and equipment
- Renewable energy sources (e.g., solar, wind)
- Low volatile organic compound emission materials (e.g., paint, sealants, carpet)
- Low flow plumbing fixtures
- Water efficient landscaping

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ No (No points) ☒ Yes (4 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

Resource staff and biologists responsible for WHPP/HMP development and implementation drive hybrid vehicles when conducting WHPP and restoration site monitoring. The forest has also recently begun work on a proposal to convert the existing forest greenhouse to use solar power and to develop two additional greenhouses with solar capability. Overall, the forest has recently adopted an Environmental Management System (EMS) which is reducing the consumption of gasoline and other resources by encouraging ride-sharing, the use of alternative fuel vehicles, and alternatives to travel such as video/phone conferencing.

## 9. Motorized Access - Q 9.

9. The Project improves and/or maintains facilities that provide motorized access to the following non-motorized recreation opportunities 6

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each, up to a maximum of 6 points (Please select applicable values)



- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Camping                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Birding                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hiking                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equestrian trails |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fishing                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Rock Climbing                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) [Target Shooting] |   |